

-- The invention relates to flexible straws with one (or more) corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), which are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are permanently bent until their use in order to take up less space.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The straws used to date for this purpose have one corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising 8-10 re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds). [The first (or the last) fold, being firm, is not counted as re-entrant overlapping fold]. To bend to obtuse angles (e.g. 180°) due to the restricted number of folds, continuous external pressure has to be exercised. This pressure keeps being exercised by the packaging material afterwards as well. As a result the folds are permanently deformed and straightening of the straw is not possible. Also a problem is posed by the fact that all folds are expanded (unfolded) after bending of the straw. (e.g. The U-shaped straws.) --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

N.E. -- The corrugated zone (flexible zone) of the new straw according to present invention, comprises expanded (unfolded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) that are not

deformed by force and contracted (folded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) interspersed among the expanded ones so that not many consecutive expanded folds 2, 5 exist without interference of one 3 or more 4 contracted ones in order to achieve the best possible straightening up of the straw. Further, the first folds 1 are contracted, so that after straightening, the straw may bend to all directions. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

ME. -- In case the straw has more than one corrugated zones (flexible zones) comprising re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), [e.g. the S-shaped straws – EP-A-0 327 244 (ELOPAK SYSTEMS AG)] the above are applied on all zones. --

In the Claims

Please cancel all Claims of record and replace them with new claims 5 – 14.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has rewritten all Claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as overcome the technical rejections and define the invention patentably over the prior art.

About the matter of novelty, applicant wishes any possible objections were stated in details.